

D101.35: F559

Documents

ACU LIBRARY



0 3064 0439 1907

LIBRARY  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
ABILENE, TEXAS

MAY 15 1990

# Freedom's Flag

## The History of Old Glory



# 1600

**1607**

First permanent English colony, Jamestown, Virginia

**1620**

The Mayflower arrives at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts

**1626**

New Amsterdam is settled by the Dutch

**1636**

Harvard is the first college opened in the colonies



(British Union Jack)

**1603**

French explorer Samuel de Champlain voyages down the St. Lawrence River.

**1612**

In Virginia, John Rolfe begins the cultivation of tobacco.

**1630**

The Puritan "Great Migration" brings more than 1,000 settlers to Massachusetts

**1643**

Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut and New Haven form the New England Confederation for defense.

# 1650

**1660**

England's Navigation Act  
restricts colonial trade

**1666**

Hudson Bay Company is  
founded by the English  
for the exploration of  
North America



**1664**

British defeat Dutch in  
New Amsterdam,  
renaming it New York

**1673**

Marquette and Joliet explore  
the Mississippi River

**1675**

King Phillip's War  
ravages New England



**1692**

Witchcraft trials in Salem,  
Massachusetts

**1682**

Quaker William Penn  
founds colony of  
Pennsylvania

# 1700

**1704**  
Boston News Letter, one  
of America's first successful  
newspapers, is published



**1721**  
Smallpox inoculations are  
first administered in  
New World



**1741**  
Alaska discovered by  
Vitus Bering

**1701**  
Yale University is founded  
in Connecticut

**1718**  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
is founded

**1732**  
Poor Richard's  
Almanac published by  
Ben Franklin

**1746**  
Princeton University is  
founded in New Jersey

# 1750

1752

Ben Franklin flies a kite with a key attached to show that lightning is electric in nature

1770

Boston Massacre

1774

First Continental Congress is held

1776

Declaration of Independence

1781

British surrender at Yorktown

1793

Cotton gin invented



(Grand Union Flag)



(1777 - 1795)

1756

French and Indian War begins

1773

Boston Tea Party

1775

With the battles at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill, Revolutionary War begins

1777

Battle of Saratoga

1788

Constitution of the United States ratified

# 1800

**1806**

Lewis and Clark return from  
the expedition to the  
Pacific Ocean

**1823**

Monroe Doctrine

**1836**

The Battle of the Alamo

**1847**

Rotary printing press  
invented

**1803**

Louisiana Purchase

**1812**

War of 1812 fought with  
England



**1833**

First transatlantic  
steamship crossing

**1846**

Mexican War

# 1850

1861

Civil War begins

1869

First transcontinental railroad is completed

1877

Edison invents the phonograph

1886

American Federation of Labor (AFL) formed

1898

Spanish-American War

1865

13th Amendment abolishes slavery

1876

Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone

1879

Edison invents the light bulb

1890

Sherman Antitrust Act

1890

Battle of Wounded Knee



(Confederate Battle Flag)



(1861 - 1863)

# 1900

**1914**

World War I begins  
Panama Canal opens

**1917**

U.S. enters WW I

**1926**

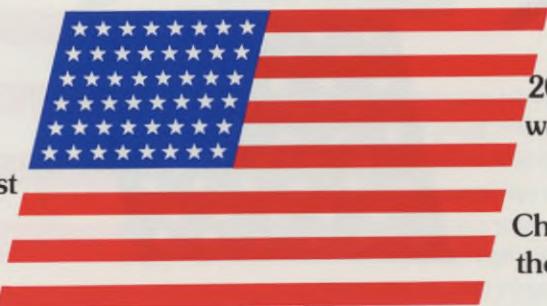
Goddard launches first  
liquid fuel rocket

**1929**

The Great Depression begins

**1942**

The first nuclear reactor is  
built in Chicago



**1903**

Wright brothers fly the first  
successful heavier-than-air  
craft

**1915**

Albert Einstein publishes  
a general theory of relativity

**1920**

20th Amendment gives  
women the right to vote

**1927**

Charles Lindbergh makes  
the first solo transatlantic  
flight

**1941**

U.S. enters WW II

**1949**

North Atlantic Treaty  
Organization (NATO)  
formed

# 1950

**1950**

U.S. enters the Korean War

**1961**

Peace Corps established

**1965**

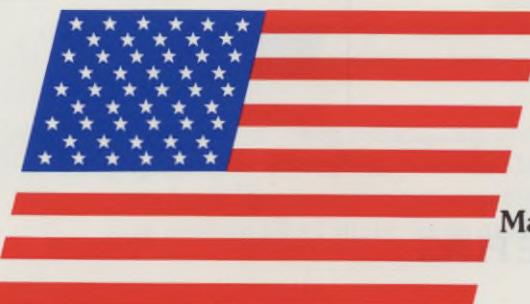
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
leads peace march at  
Selma, Alabama

**1973**

Vietnam War ends

**1976**

U.S. Viking satellite looks  
for life on Mars



**1958**

First U.S. satellite launched

**1964**

Civil Rights Act  
outlaws public  
discrimination

**1969**

Man walks on the moon

**1975**

U.S. and Soviet space  
craft link in space

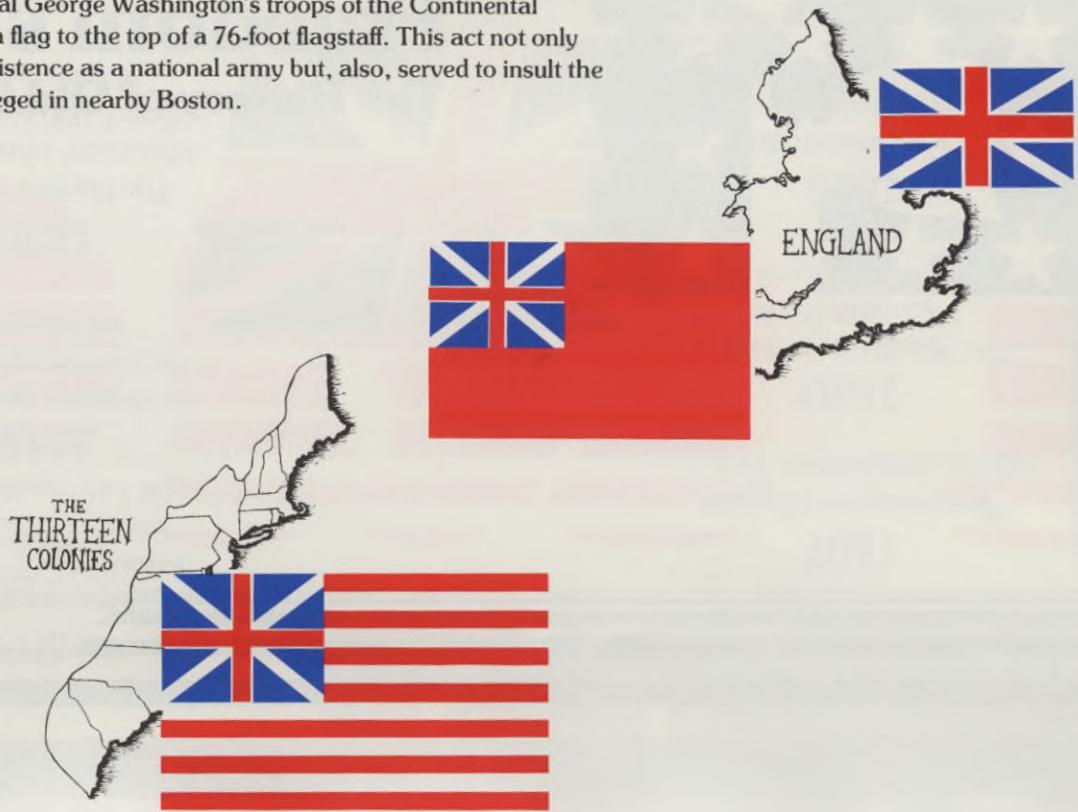
**1981**

Space shuttle Columbia  
orbits the earth and returns



UNITED STATES ARMY  
1775

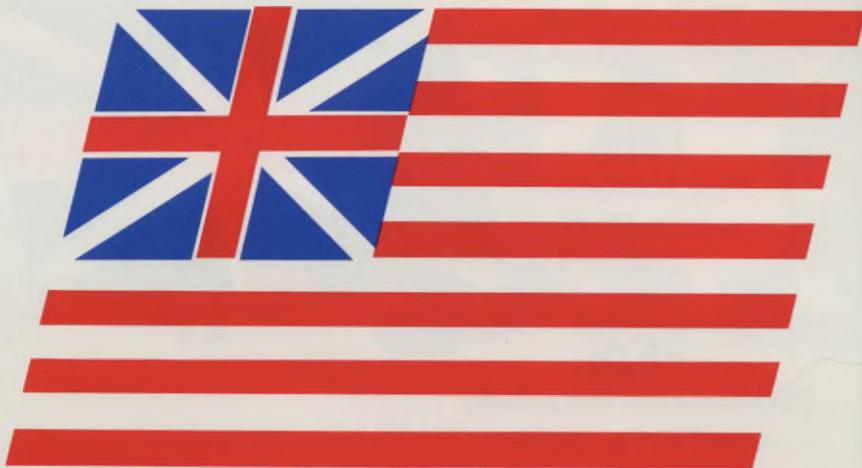
The history of the American flag, like the history of America itself, has its roots in colonial times. The first "American" flag made its debut in January 1776, when General George Washington's troops of the Continental Congress hoisted a flag to the top of a 76-foot flagstaff. This act not only celebrated their existence as a national army but, also, served to insult the British forces besieged in nearby Boston.



This first colonial flag, called the Great or Grand Union Flag, was based on the British "Meteor Flag." The introduction of six horizontal white stripes onto the Meteor's red field resulted in alternating red and white stripes...thirteen in number. The British Union Jack retained its place of honor in the left upper quadrant of the flag, symbolizing the colonies' loyalty to the British Crown.

In December, 1775 the Continental Navy flew the Grand Union Flag as its ensign on the flagship Alfred. As the standard of the Continental Army, the flag was also carried by the Marines on an expedition to the Bahamas in March, 1776.

The Continental Congress never officially adopted or recognized the Grand Union Flag. The flag still came to symbolize the political unity of the 13 colonies. More importantly, the Grand Union Flag's design formed the basis for the "Stars and Stripes" design.

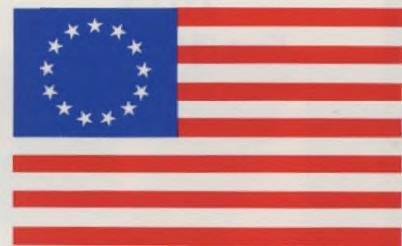


## THE STARS AND STRIPES

The first official flag of the United States was adopted with little fanfare. Without so much as an introduction, Congress passed the following Resolution on 14 June 1777: "Resolved: that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The Declaration of Independence had rendered the use of the Grand Union Flag politically embarrassing. Congress' resolution solved the problem by replacing the Union Jack with a blue field and thirteen stars, one for each of the thirteen colonies.

As small as the change was, it served its purpose. It underscored the determination of the United States to secure its rights as a sovereign power.

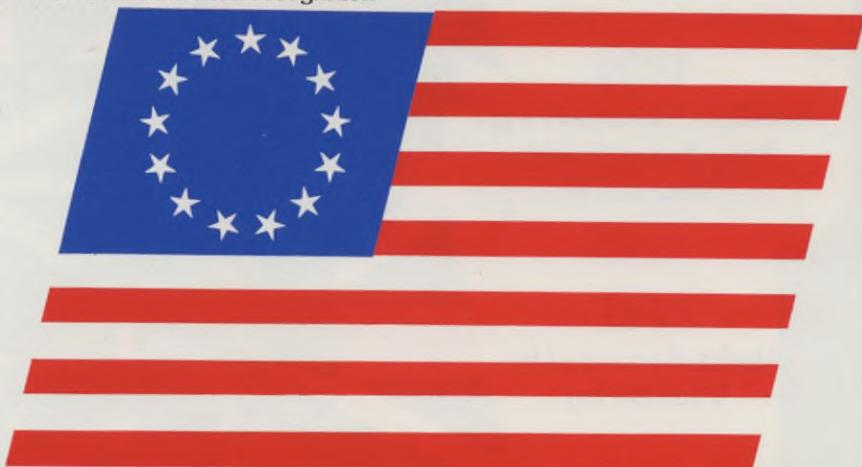


The most widely circulated legend concerning the creation of the first official American flag concerns a Philadelphia seamstress by the name of Betsy Ross. Legend has it that a congressional committee accompanied by General George Washington visited Mrs. Ross and requested a flag be made from a rough sketch in their possession.

Under the direction of General Washington, Ross changed the sketch a bit, explaining that a five-pointed star lent greater symmetry to the design than Congress' six-pointed star.

Washington himself is said to have presented the flag to Congress for approval.

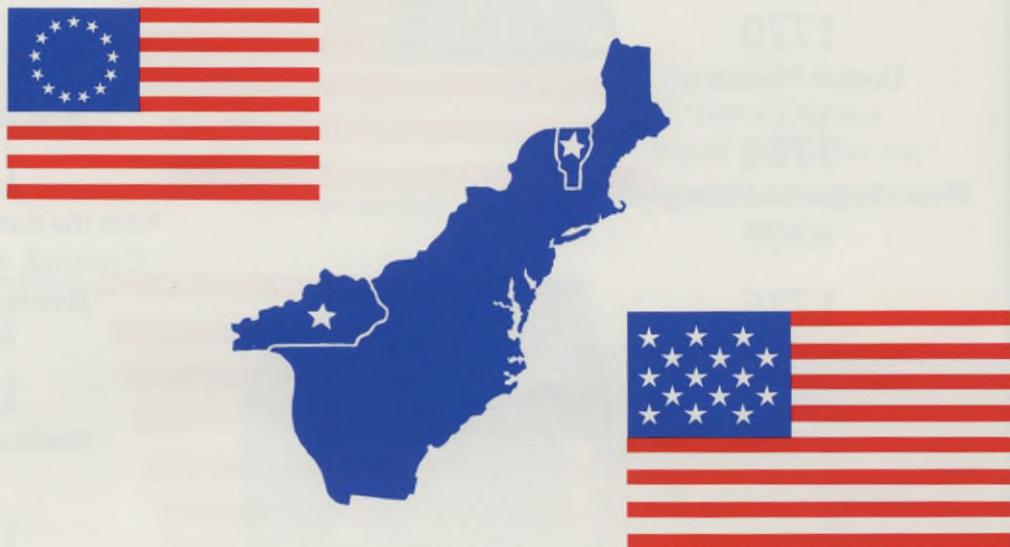
However, the facts concerning the creation of the first official flag indicate that Francis Hopkinson, one of three Continental Navy Commissioners, should be considered the "Father of the Stars and Stripes." While Hopkinson's claim to the honors for the design of the first "Stars and Stripes" has never been denied, he has never received official recognition as its designer.



## THE SECOND STARS AND STRIPES

Congress' adoption of "Old Glory" did not address how new states were to be recognized on the national flag. Vermont and Kentucky entered the Union in 1791 and 1792 respectively, making the original Stars and Stripes obsolete in terms of the Congressional Resolution of 1777.

The flag was modified by adding two more stripes and two more stars to the flag. Of course, this solution merely solved the problem for Vermont and Kentucky. The admission of new states would again render the flag obsolete and Congress would have to solve the problem by designing yet another flag.

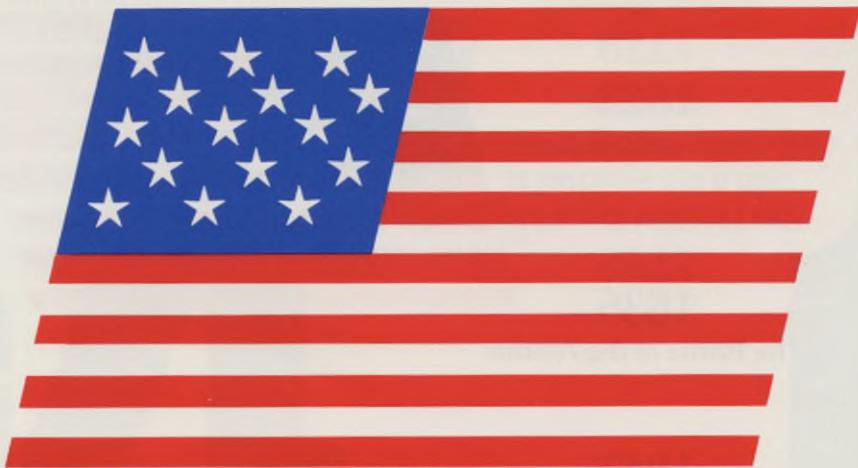


## THE STAR—SPANGLED BANNER

The Stars and Stripes did not become, however, at that time a national symbol readily accepted by the American people. An event during the night of 13-14 September 1814 did much to popularize the national flag.

Francis Scott Key, a prominent Washington D.C. lawyer, witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry (near Baltimore) by a British fleet. As a matter of fact, Key watched the bombardment from the flagship of the British fleet where he was temporarily detained. He watched the shelling of the American fort throughout the night. To his astonishment the morning found the Stars and Stripes still flying. Key was moved to write a poem about his feelings of pride in the brave men of Fort McHenry as well as in their flag.

In the following decades, his poem was adapted to more than 20 different tunes. One of these became our national anthem -- "The Star-Spangled Banner."



## THE THIRD STARS AND STRIPES

Congress approved the third design for the national flag on 4 April 1818.

Congressman Peter H. Wendover of New York City was the driving force behind the movement for the third Stars and Stripes. His idea limited the number of stripes to 13, one for each of the original states, and honored each new state by placing an additional star on the flag.

Wendover's resolution did not set a standard for the arrangement of the stars within the blue field. It wasn't until 1912 that this last design problem was resolved with the adoption of a standard arrangement of stars. The 1912 flag served the nation through two world wars. The 49-star flag was adopted in 1959 and enjoyed the shortest life of any flag design. The admission of Hawaii in that year rendered it obsolete and the 50-star flag was introduced on 4 July 1960.



## TODAY'S FLAG

This is our flag now. This is the flag that was carried with pride by the soldiers who defied the Russian blockade of Berlin in 1962.

This is the flag that flew over the Army's firebases in Vietnam.

It is the flag that flies on the moon.

The American flag is a symbol recognized and honored not only by Americans, but by citizens of other nations around the world.





figure 1

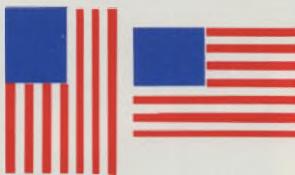


figure 2

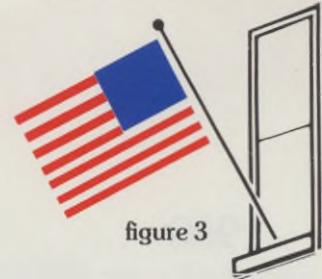


figure 3

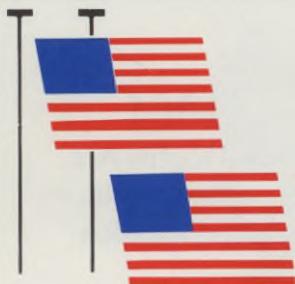


figure 4



figure 5

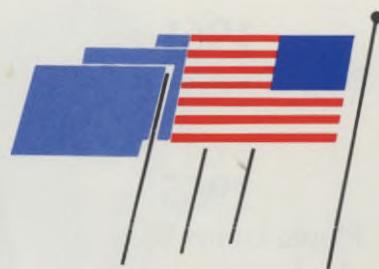


figure 6

## HOW TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

1. When suspended across a street, the flag should be vertical, with the union (or blue field) to the North in an east—west street, or to the East in a north—south street.
2. When the flag is displayed flat, either horizontally or vertically, on a wall or in a window, the union (or blue field) should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (to the observer's left when facing the flag).



figure 7

3. When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the blue field should be at the staff's peak (unless the flag is to be displayed at half-staff).
4. When it is to be flown at half-staff, the flag is first raised to the peak and then lowered to the half-staff position. When being lowered for the day it should first be raised to the peak.
5. When pennants or other flags are flown on the same halyard with the national flag, the latter should always be at the peak. Only the United Nations flag at UN Headquarters or the church pennant during services at sea may be flown above the national flag.
6. When carried in a line or procession with another flag or flags, the national flag can be carried in front of the center of that line.
7. Or, when carried in a line or procession with another flag or flags, the national flag can be carried on the marching right—that is, the flag's own right.
8. When the flags of two or more nations are displayed they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height.
9. When other flags are displayed from staffs with the national flag, the latter should be at the center, or at the highest point of the group.
10. When displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the national flag should be on its own right, with its staff in front of the staff of the other flag.

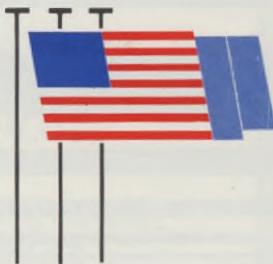


figure 8

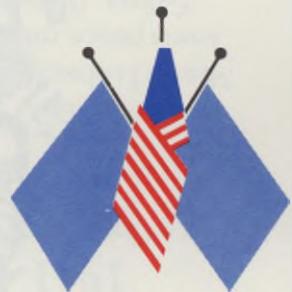


figure 9

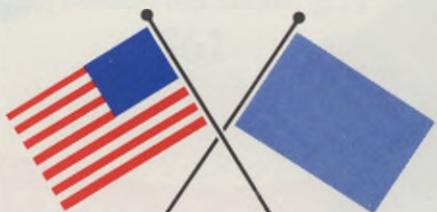


figure 10